



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

24 FEBRUARY 2023

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles — LA Students' Health Records Posted to Dark Web After Data Breach

(U) Recent discovery of the 2022 ransomware attack revealed that Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) students' psychological evaluations were in fact published to a "dark web" site by Vice Society, a Russian ransomware gang. It was discovered that approximately 2,000 student assessment records are victims of the attack of which 60 are current students. Not only personally identifiable information about students who received special education services, including their detailed medical histories, academic performance and disciplinary records were exposed but driver's license numbers, Social Security numbers and positive COVID-19 results were compromised as well. The LAUSD is the second largest school district in the United States, and it continues to assess the September 2022 cyberattack. SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [US News](#)

(U) Los Angeles — Individual Charged with Hacking into Instagram Influencers' Accounts

(U) Amir Hossein Golshan was charged yesterday in a six-count federal grand jury indictment for allegedly defrauding female social media influencers, including by engaging in "SIM swapping" to hijack their Instagram accounts and obtain money from them and engage in sexually explicit video chats with him. According to court documents, this exploitation occurred from April 2019 to February 2023. He is charged with two counts of wire fraud, one count of unauthorized access to a protected computer to obtain information, one count of accessing a computer to defraud and obtain value, one count of aggravated identity theft, and one count of threatening to damage a protected computer. SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [USAO CDCA](#)

(U) Visalia — Attorney General Arrested Seven in the 2020 Killing of 15 Year Old Boy

(U) A multi-agency operation Tuesday lead to the arrests of seven individuals involved in the murder of 15-year-old Justin Molina. The victim was shot in Visalia's Ruiz Park on 13 December 2020 and died as a result of his injuries seven days later. The California Attorney General's office, California Department of Justice's Special Operations Unit, Tulare County Sheriff's Office and the Visalia Police Department's detectives continued the investigation for two years. The teams executed six search warrants during the investigation, resulting in seven arrests and the seizure of six handguns, one shotgun, and approximately \$10,000 in cash. SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [CA OAG](#)

SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California — Mother and Daughter Caught Smuggling More Than \$830,000 of Methamphetamine

(U) Indio — El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents arrested two US citizens accused of smuggling narcotics on 21 February. The agents seized nearly 700 pounds of methamphetamine from two vehicles suspected of smuggling and traveling in conjunction with each other on Interstate 10. Both individuals were placed under arrest and the contents of the packages tested positive for methamphetamine with

an estimated street value of \$830,874. Further interviews revealed both drivers were related, mother and daughter are in the custody of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [CBP](#)

(U) California — Border Patrol Officers Intercept Narcotics Worth More Than \$15 Million

(U) Otay Mesa — US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at Otay Mesa's cargo facility confiscated more than \$15 million worth of narcotics between 14 to 16 February. The drivers concealed the narcotics in various methods such as clay pots, jicama, and furniture. A total of 1,425 packages containing narcotics were seized with estimated street value of \$15.4 million. CBP officers turned the drivers over to the custody of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Homeland Security Investigations for final disposition.

SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [CBP](#)

NATIONAL

(U) Florida — Russian Malware Developer Arrested And Extradited To The United States

(U) Tampa — Dariy Pankov, a citizen and resident of Russia, was taken into custody by Georgian authorities in the Republic of Georgia, on 4 October, 2022, and extradited to the United States on 21 February. Pankov appeared in Middle District of Florida and is charged with conspiracy, access device fraud, and computer fraud. Pankov developed a malicious software program named "NLBrute" which was used to obtain the login credentials of tens of thousands of computers located all over the world. Pankov sold the stolen login credentials on a dark web website that specialized in the purchase and sale of access to compromised computers. Once sold, those credentials were used to facilitate a wide range of illegal activity, including ransomware attacks and tax fraud. He faces a maximum penalty of 47 years in federal prison.

SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [USAO-MDFL](#)

(U) Massachusetts — Crypto Mining Operation Found in School Crawl Space

(U) Cohasset — The former assistant facilities director for the town of Cohasset is facing charges of allegedly setting up a secret cryptocurrency mining operation in a remote crawl space at a school. Nadeam Nahas was scheduled to be arraigned on 22 February on charges of fraudulent use of electricity and vandalizing a school, but he did not show up for court. On December 2021, police responded to Cohasset Middle/High School after the town's facilities director found electrical wires, temporary duct work, and numerous computers. It was determined that it was a cryptocurrency mining operation unlawfully hooked up to the school's electrical system.

SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [Associated Press](#)

(U) New York — Three of the Highest-Ranking MS-13 Leaders in the World Arrested

(U) New York City – Three men accused of being high-ranking leaders of the transnational criminal gang MS-13 were arrested in Mexico on 22 February and will be sent to New York to face charges. The charges in the indictment include racketeering, conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists and narco-terrorism conspiracy. Four of the men named in the indictment remain at large and the six other defendants are believed to be in custody in El Salvador, and the United States is seeking their extradition. The 13 defendants of MS-13 play significant leadership roles in the organization's operations

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in El Salvador, Mexico, the United States, and throughout the world. These defendants authorized and directed violence in the United States, Mexico, and elsewhere as part of a concerted effort to expand MS-13's influence and territorial control.

SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [DOJ](#)

(U) West Virginia — Woman Sentenced to Prison for Straw Purchase of Firearm Used in Fatal Shooting

(U) Charleston — Melanie Clodfelter was sentenced on 22 February to two years in prison and three years of supervised release, for making a false statement in the acquisition of a firearm. Clodfelter admitted to purchasing a semi-automatic firearm that was used to kill one Nicholas County deputy sheriff and seriously injure another in June 2022. During the encounter, Richard Holcomb fatally shot the sheriff's deputy with the semi-automatic rifle purchased and provided by Clodfelter. She admitted to lying on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Federal Firearms Transaction Record Form 4473, by falsely certifying that she was the buyer of the firearm when she knew she was purchasing it for Richie Holcomb.

SOURCE: 23 February 2023, [USAO SDWV](#)

INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mali — Three UN Peacekeepers Killed, Five Wounded by Roadside Bomb in Mali

(U) Bamako — Three UN peacekeepers were killed, and five others wounded by a roadside bomb in central Mali on Tuesday. The bomb struck a supply convoy near the village of Songobia. The UN Security Council and Secretary-General condemned the attack and urged the government of Mali to swiftly investigate the attack with the support of Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission and bring the perpetrators to justice. The UN reports for the ninth consecutive year, Mali had the most peacekeepers killed while deployed there.

SOURCE: 22 February 2023, [AP News](#)

(U) Somalia — US Strike Kills Seven Al-Shabaab Fighters

(U) Mogadishu — A US strike in Somalia killed seven al-Shabaab fighters on 21 February. The strike was carried out at the request of the Somali government approximately 320 miles northeast of Mogadishu in coordination with the US against a militant organization that AFRICOM considers the largest and most deadly as-Qa'ida network in the world. This is the sixth time this year that US forces have conducted strikes against al-Shabaab. No civilians were injured or killed in this operation.

SOURCE: 22 February 2023, [CNN](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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